

FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

Applicant alerts the Examiner to a Supplement Information Disclosure Statement that is being filed concurrently herewith. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the references cited therein prior to issuance of his next office action.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-19, and 21-39 are pending in the present application. Claims 14, 15, and 35-39 have been allowed. Claims 6-13, 16, 17, and 24-33 have been objected to but are otherwise allowable. Claims 1, 3, 18, 19, 21, and 34 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b). Claims 4, 5, 22, and 23 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a).

Claims 1, 18, 19, and 34 have been amended and claims 4-6 and 22-24 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 40-46 have been newly added. Claim 40 comprises claim 8 re-written in independent form. Claim 41 comprises claim 11 re-written in independent form. Claim 42 comprises claim 16 re-written in independent form. Claim 43 comprises claim 26 re-written in independent form. Claim 44 comprises claim 28 re-written in independent form. Claim 45 comprises claim 30 re-written in independent form. Claim 46 comprises claim 32 re-written in independent form. Accordingly, after entry of this amendment, the pending claims will be claims 1, 3, 7-19, 21, and 25-46.

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application based on the above amendments and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3, 18, 19, 21, and 34 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication Number 10-044529 to Kono ("Kono" or the "Kono Reference"). Claims 1, 18, 19, and 34 have been amended and therefore the grounds for rejection are considered moot. More specifically, claims 1 and 18 have each been re-written to include the subject matter from claims 5 and 6 and claims 19 and 34 have each been re-written to include the subject matter of claims 23 and 24.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that, claims 1, 3, 18, 19, 21, and 34 satisfy all of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 100, et seq., especially § 102(b). Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 18, 19, 21, and 34 are allowable. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

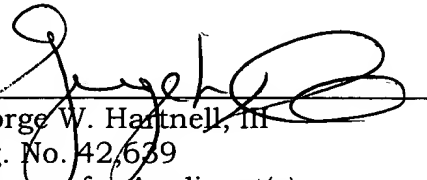
35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 4, 5, 22, and 23 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kono in view of U.S Patent Number 6,671,062 to Kanipakam ("Kanipakam" or the "Kanipakam Reference"). Claims 4, 5, 22, and 23 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, the rejections are moot.

If for any reason a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge or credit Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 16, 2005

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